

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /021 W

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R 290643Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9086

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MBABANE 0134

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, FI, SF, WZ

SUBJECT: TV FACTORY IN SWAZILAND

REF: 75 MBABANE A-055

1. ON JANUARY 23, SWAZI PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, MINES AND TOURISM S.S. NXUMALO AND MINISTER OF FINANCE R. P. STEPHENS HAD RETURNED FROM CAPE TOWN WHERE THEY DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF MATTERS WITH SAG AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING SALORA TV ASSEMBLY PLANT IN SWAZILAND. THIS PRESS STORY REPEATED RUMORS RECENTLY CIRCULATING IN MBABANE THAT SAG AUTHORITIES WERE ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE SPECIAL DUTIES ON SWAZI-MADE SETS.

2. ON JANUARY 27, HENRY NATHAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF SWAZILAND, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE MINISTERS TO CAPE TOWN, INFORMED CHARGE THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD CONCERNED THE TERMINATION OF REBATE WHICH HAS BEEN PAID TO ALL TV COMPANIES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAZILAND ON IMPORT OF SEMI-ASSEMBLED TV SETS. SAG AUTHORITIES HAD WANTED TO END THIS REBATE IMMEDIATELY WHILE SWAZI OFFICIALS ASKED THAT IT BE KEPT IN EFFECT FOR AN ADDITIONAL 9 MONTHS. ACCORDING TO NATHAN, AN EXTENSION

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OF SIX MONTHS WAS AGREED UPON.

3. NATHAN ALSO SAID THAT SALORA'S OPERATION IN SWAZILAND WAS
PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE AND THE COMPANY HOPED TO ASSEMBLE AND SELL
SOME 20,000 SETS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN MARKET THIS YEAR.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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